

a2 ~~7~~
8. (Once amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said microbial growth inhibiting effective amount of quaternary ammonium compound ranges from [approximately] about 50 to about 20,000 parts per million.

~~8~~
9. (Once amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said microbial growth inhibiting effective amount of quaternary ammonium compound ranges from [approximately] about 500 to about 5,000 parts per million.

a3 ~~14~~
16. (Once amended) The method of Claim ~~15~~ ¹³, wherein said microorganisms are selected from the group consisting of *Salmonella*, *Staphylococcus*, *Campylobacter*, *Arcobacter*, *Listeria*, *Aeromonas*, *Bacillus*, non-toxin producing *Escherichia*, [and] pathogenic toxin-producing *Escherichia*, *Aspergillus*, *Penicillium*, and *Entamoeba histolytica*.

a4 ~~18~~
21. (Once amended) The method of Claim ~~17~~ ¹², wherein said microbial growth inhibiting effective amount of quaternary ammonium compound ranges from [approximately] about 50 to about 20,000 parts per million.

c ~~19~~
22. (Once amended) The method of Claim ~~21~~ ¹⁸, wherein said microbial growth inhibiting effective amount of quaternary ammonium compound ^{ranges} ~~ranges~~ from [approximately] about 500 to about 5,000 parts per million.

a5 ~~22~~
25. (Once amended) The method of Claim ~~24~~ ²⁴, wherein said sufficient period of contact time ranges from [approximately] about 20 seconds to about 10 minutes.

[
Kindly add the following new claims:

a6 ~~24~~
--31. The method of Claim 1, wherein said meat product is beef, pork, lamb or venison.

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32. A method for preventing the growth of *Escherichia* on meat products comprising:
contacting said meat product with a microbial growth inhibiting effective amount of a quaternary ammonium compound for a sufficient period of time to prevent the growth of *Escherichia* on said meat product

33. The method of Claim 32, wherein said *Escherichia* is a pathogenic toxin-producing *Escherichia*.

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34. The method of Claim 33, wherein said pathogenic toxin-producing *Escherichia* is *Escherichia coli* O157:H7.--

REMARKS

Applicants affirm the election of Group I, claims 1-26 with traverse. Claims 27-30 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as directed to non-elected subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application on the subject matter of these non-elected claims.

Claims 1, 8, 9, 16, 21, 22 and 25 are amended, claim 12 is canceled and claims 31-34 have been added. Claims 27-30 were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-11, 13-26 and 31-34 are presently pending. The newly added claims are supported by the specification as filed.

1. Obviousness-type Double Patenting

Claims 1-26 are provisionally rejected over claims of the parent application, U.S. Serial No. 08/631,578 because the examiner alleges that the differences between the claims are obvious. Applicants herewith provide a terminal disclaimer disclaiming any patent term beyond the expiration of U.S. Serial No. 08/631,578. It is believed that the submission of this terminal disclaimer obviates this rejection and it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.